

Volume XII

Number 4

—NOTICE TO READER—

When you finish reading this magazine, place a one-cent stamp on this notice, mail the magazine, and it will be placed in the hands of our soldiers or sailors destined to proceed overseas.

NO WRAPPING—NO ADDRESS
A.S. BURLESON, Postmaster General

JUL 17 1918

JULY, 1918

The Playground



Recreation Board, Philadelphia, Pa.

THE JOYS OF SAND AND WATER

Twenty-five Cents a Copy

Two Dollars a Year

The Playground

Published monthly at Cooperstown, New York

for the

Playground and Recreation Association of America

1 Madison Avenue, New York City

Membership

Any person contributing five dollars or more shall be a
member of the Association for the
ensuing year

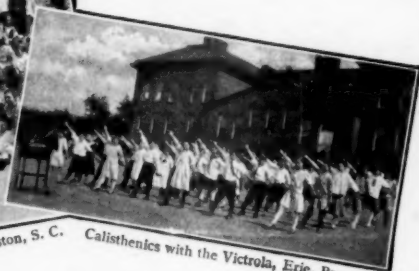


TABLE OF CONTENTS

The World at Play	135
Pure Democracy in Playground Management, <i>by W. C. Batchelor</i>	141
War Time Status of Playground Work, <i>by O. W. Douglas</i>	146
Folk Dancing behind the Lines	148
A Word on Recreation from the Standpoint of the Training Camp	151
Who Is Responsible?	152
Boys in Khaki and Their Clubs	153
English Women Play Their Part in the World War	156
The Wasted Years—Preface <i>by Edward T. Hartman</i>	158
Recreation and the War	162
Twelfth Annual Conference of Boys' Club Federation	163
Hopedale's Glorified Mill Pond, <i>by James Church Alvord</i>	165



Entered as second-class matter August 8, 1916, at the Post Office at
Cooperstown, New York, under the act of March 3, 1879



Victrola Appreciation, Primary Grades, Charleston, S. C. Calisthenics with the Victrola, Erie, Pa.

A Victrola in your school means

increased culture, artistic progress, greater physical fitness, renewed interest in all studies, and the opportunity for every boy and girl to hear and know the world's best music rendered by the world's greatest artists.

The Victrola and Victor Records

are used to illustrate and vitalize the lessons in English Language and Literature, History and Geography. They are indispensable in the teaching of Physical Education, Folk Dancing, Patriotic Songs, Community Singing, Nature Study, Penmanship, Typewriting, Voice Culture, Ear Training, Opera Study, Music History and Orchestral Instruments. From Victor Records the boys in the Army and Navy are learning French, and Wireless Telegraphy.



Victrola XXV, \$85
specially manufactured
for School use

When the Victrola is not in use, the horn can be placed under the instrument safe and secure from danger, and the cabinet can be locked to protect it from dust and promiscuous use by irresponsible people.

With all these practical uses, the Victrola has become a real necessity, and should be a regular part of the equipment of your school.

If you would know more about the extensive use of Victor Records in school, see "A New Graded List," which is a catalogue of over one thousand Victor Records, classified according to use in various grades and subjects.

Ask your Victor dealer for a copy of this new list, or send a post card to the

Educational Department
Victor Talking Machine Co.
Camden, N. J.

Victrola



To insure Victor quality, always look for the famous trademark "His Master's Voice." It is on all genuine products of the Victor Talking Machine Company.

Please mention THE PLAYGROUND when writing to advertisers



The Kindergarten and First Grade

CONSTRUCTION PLAY THAT EDUCATES

The Playground

Vol. XII No. 4

JULY 1918

The World At Play

Girls of the Hour.—*Wohelo* gives the following patriotic service record of Camp Fire Girls:

70,448 Camp Fire Girls last year planted and cultivated truck gardens; 83,356 contributed money and cooperated with the Red Cross. The Camp Fire Girls throughout the country contributed more than \$10,000 to their own War Chest to carry on the war work of the organization. They have sold over \$12,000 worth of Liberty Bonds, and thousands of dollars' worth of Thrift Stamps.

Park Fete of New York Girls' Public School Athletic League.—Six thousand children singing and dancing on the green in Central Park, above them, twenty-five Maypoles decked with gay colors—orange and black, yellow and white, pink and white and blue and white! The band of the *S. S. Recruit* occupied a grandstand at the center of the green and furnished the music for the songs and

dances. The fete was opened with a roll of drums at which the children massed themselves around the green. At the sound of the bugle they marched to the centre of the field. Then came the raising of the flag and six thousand voices recited the pledge of allegiance. Singing and dancing were then given full sway over the green. Near the end of the hour the Maypoles were wound and the band struck up the *Star Spangled Banner*. All stood at attention and the gaiety of the afternoon was at an end.

The Boy Scouts were on hand wherever any help was needed and they worked like little Trojans, taking down the Maypoles at a slight shower and setting them up again with no delay when the sun came out—and how manly they looked as they stood at attention, never moving a muscle, while the *Star Spangled Banner* was played.

Triangular Discussions.—The Extension Division of the

THE WORLD AT PLAY

University of Wisconsin advocates three-sided debates on present day questions and recommends that every such program include an American Song Contest. A special bulletin on this subject is issued by the University.

Twin Ball.—A new game invented by Mrs. G. B. Emerson, of Boston, aims to develop alertness, muscular coordination and accuracy in throwing, especially for children between six and ten. Directions may be secured from Mrs. Emerson or from THE PLAYGROUND.

Jewish Recreation Center.—New York City has a new Jewish center on West Eighty-sixth Street, which aims to unify the religious, social and occupational life of its members. A synagogue, class rooms, auditorium, club rooms, gymnasium and swimming pool give splendid facilities for expression of various interests.

Keeping Fit.—Oneida County Y. M. C. A. in New York State conducted a "Keeping Fit Exhibition" to which only men and boys were admitted, an adult guide to every three boys. Committees in every community were enlisted to secure the attendance of every boy in the district.

Greater Recreation Budget for Detroit.—The City of De-

troit has allowed a budget of \$437,100.25 for Detroit's recreation program for the coming year. This is twice as large a sum as was allowed last year. Detroit is alive to the fact that directed and equipped leisure-time activities play an important part in maintaining the morale of the people and is setting a standard which will have great influence with other cities throughout the country. It is a significant fact that last year with all the stress of war, the amount of money expended for recreation was greater than ever before.

Looks for Recreation Spurt after the War.—Lieutenant Eustace M. Peixotto, formerly of the Recreation League of San Francisco, writes to his former colleagues:

"Surely the world is moving fast these days along the lines for which we have striven. The Army has adopted the recreation program wholesale and it is being demonstrated on a scale such as few of us ever dreamed we should see in our life time. Every officer I have ever met is in full sympathy with it and ready to do his share toward seeing it go through. After this experience every man who goes back should be a recreation advocate in his own

THE WORLD AT PLAY

home town, not to mention being a community singer and a few other things. The war will unquestionably halt great expansion in public playgrounds and some other things temporarily, but I do believe that it will be the means of a speedier general adoption of the whole recreation program. The work of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Recreation Committees is bound to have a far-reaching effect, not only on the men who enjoy their benefits but on the communities in which they are organized."

War Gardens in Canada.—It is estimated that Canadian war gardens raised thirty million dollars' worth of food last year. This year the chairman of the vacant lot and home garden section of the Canada Food Board says the record must be doubled.

Recreation Problem in England.—England has a standing committee appointed by the Home Secretary to promote recreation for boys and girls, particularly as a deterrent to juvenile delinquency. In fifty or more large towns committees consisting of representatives of all organizations for child welfare have been working on the problem under the direction of the national committee.

Mass Games for Troops Landing in France.—Since neither space nor time for practice and team play are available for recreation through baseball, football, track sports, among the soldiers in France in many cases, a method of mass games has been evolved which has proved very successful. One of the great try-outs of this idea was upon the occasion of the landing of the first soldiers in France. The men were eager for a chance to "stretch their legs." Everybody must have a chance in a short time in a comparatively small space. Fourteen hundred forty men were scheduled for the first hour in a great level field a short distance from the dock. Each company followed its band into columns of files, twenty men to a file, eight files to a company. Between company files was a lane six feet wide. First came a company "standing broad jump," in which seventy-one percent of the men cleared the ditch which they were ordered to jump. Followed a company "relay race"—1440 men flying down the field, in a race in which fifty-six percent were ahead of the rope suddenly dropped waist high. "Company soccer" divided the men into eight teams of 175 each.

THE WORLD AT PLAY

On four large fields the eight teams played, one side trying to kick over the line or through the posts at one end, the other side at the other end. One point scored for kicking over the line, three points kicking through the goal posts. So lively was the scrimmage that the score-keepers lost count, but one team kicked more than seventy goals in thirty minutes.

Ireland Welcomes Our Sailor Lads.—The Irish ancestry of many of the American sailors in Irish waters, as well as the fact that so many Irish mothers have sons in America has made the Irish welcome to our boys a cordial one. The latch string is out on almost any house. One gathering place which is popular is the United States Naval Men's Club in Dublin, funds for which were supplied by American business men. Baseball follows the flag and the Americans daily playing on the cricket ground are almost convincing the stolid English sailor that "bass ball" may possibly be a real game.

Serving His Country.—A story is told of a young "Tommy" sent to "Blighty," wounded—in football behind the lines! Frequent tales of cricket proceeding earnestly under shot and shell come to

us. The indomitable spirit of play is near of kin to "They shall not pass!"

The Old Order Changeth.—Something of what might have been the condition in our own country had it not been for the work of the Commission on Training Camp Activities is indicated by the following from Hawthorne's English notebook, near the end of Volume One under date of April 1st, 1856. Mr. Hawthorne has just been describing a visit to Aldershot Camp, where he and Mr. Bennoch were the guests of Lieutenant Shaw of the North Cork Rifles. The time is that of the Crimean War; Sebastopol has recently fallen into the hands of the British.

"I know not whether I have mentioned that the villages neighboring to the camp have suffered terribly as regards morality from the vicinity of the soldiers. Quiet old English towns, that till within a little time ago had kept their antique simplicity and innocence, have now no such thing as female virtue in them, so far as the lower classes are concerned. This is expressing the matter too strongly, no doubt; but there is too much truth in it nevertheless; and one of the officers remarked that even ladies of respecta-

THE WORLD AT PLAY

bility had grown much more free in manners and conversation than at first. I have heard observations similar to this from a Nova-Scotian, in reference to the moral influence of soldiers when stationed in the provinces."

The Catholic Soldier.—The National Catholic War Council has published a pamphlet giving the reasons for Catholic support of the work of the Commission on Training Camp Activities, upon which Charles P. Neill, of Washington, is the Catholic member. The work of the Knights of Columbus is outlined and a plan given for diocesan and national organization.

The Camp Workers and Their Work.—One of the first efforts to present in report form the work of the various sections of the Commission on Training Camp Activities is that compiled by Lieutenant Alleyne C. Howell, Senior Chaplain, Division Headquarters and Editor of the *Eighty-third Division News*, at Camp Sherman, Chillicothe, Ohio. The Commission workers at Camp Sherman have always had most helpful support from the commanding officer, Major-General E. F. Glenn, so it is not surprising that the work has attained such scope as to make even a brief report in-

spiring and amazing reading.

Liked the Cowboys.—Ladies of Mount Holly, North Carolina, who entertained twenty-five or thirty soldiers from Camp Greene at Sunday dinner, were very enthusiastic about the Wyoming boys. One wrote to the representative of the War Camp Community Service:

"We were all so delighted with the men, every one of whom was a cowboy from Wyoming, that all are clamoring to entertain again next Sunday. If you can send us more Wyoming men, in addition to those who were with us last Sunday, (for we have asked them all to come back next Sunday) we will be glad to receive them. They were such fine fellows. But if it isn't convenient to select Wyoming men, we are assured there are others just as delightful from other states and you must send us at least 25 or 30 for next Sunday dinner.

"I think every woman in Mount Holly, when preparing dinner Sunday, had a soldier guest or two in mind. When the boys who were on horse-back rode away, we filled their saddle pockets with fruit and nuts."

One of the dinner guests on Sunday was Lester Kyle, 148th F. A., champion rider

from Wyoming, who put his horse through a few stunts, to the huge delight of his audience.

A Soldier's Idea of a Club.—W. A. Wheatley, representing the War Camp Community Service at Camp Greene, Charlotte, North Carolina, invited soldiers to express their idea of what a club should be. Among many letters he received the following:

"Dear Sir—Another building should be built in Charlotte for the soldiers in the nature of a club. Equip the building with a big game room, that is, pool tables, checkers, chess. I would not have a billiard table. All the pool games should be open tables, that is, if one desires to play, all he has to do is to take a cue and join the players at the next game without saying or asking anything.

"I would have a buffet restaurant, something like Thompson's restaurants in Chicago and New York. Soft drinks and plain ice cream only, cigars.

"Shower baths would be a good thing to have, but not any gymnastics, that is, physical exercises or basket ball.

"The reading and writing room should be located somewhere in the building where the patrons will not be both-

ered with music, players or diners, or with anybody.

"I would also equip a barber shop in the club.

"Very truly yours,

"PVT.....

"Camp Greene, N. C."

What the Soldiers Want.—

A private writing of the monotony of camp life declares that entertainment by outsiders gives the greatest relaxation. Music, vaudeville, boxing—"anything that takes a fellow out of himself and takes his thoughts off what he might be doing back home"—that's what he wants.

Athletics after French Duty.—One would suppose that sleep, long and undisturbed, would be the sole desire of the soldier just from the trenches. But it has been found that the nervous and mental strain is worse than the physical for the men and sound sleep suddenly is impossible. Lieutenant Herbert of the French navy has devised a scheme by which the soldiers are marched without rest back to the open country, where, stripped to the waist, they set out for a cross-country run, up hill, down dale, climbing trees, crawling through underbrush, until, in a fine glow, they are ready for refreshing slumber.

The same methods of train-

PURE DEMOCRACY IN PLAYGROUND MANAGEMENT

ing have been used for soldiers before going to the trenches, especially crawling, lying prostrate, and throwing exercises. Recently in a sham battle the men trained by this method lost four "dead" as against 300 "dead" of their opponents, trained in the old way.

Work for Negroes.—While the Rockefeller Foundation is appropriating \$25,000 to enable the War Camp Community Service to demonstrate model recreation conditions for negro soldiers, a company of negro stockholders in New York City is planning to make

and keep Harlem negroes physically fit. Thirteen lots have been purchased for a splendid modern recreation plant.

Doing His Bit.—"Was your boy Josh much of a help to you around the farm?"

"Yes," replied Farmer Corn-tassel. "I didn't realize how much of a help he was. He didn't do much work, but he could play the jewsharp an' tell riddles an' keep the farm-hands entertained so that sometimes they would stay for days and days at a time before going."

Pure Democracy in Playground Management

W. C. BATCHELOR, Supervisor of Playgrounds, Utica, N. Y.

The Greenwood Playground is located in the heart of that section of Gardner, Massachusetts, in which the majority of Finns and French Canadians employed in the numerous chair industries of that town, live and raise their large families. A heavy shower, coming suddenly upon the playground one July afternoon, filled the shelter house to its capacity. This was just the opportunity I had been awaiting. Without the necessity of a formal summons, a majority of the representative boys and girls, up to fifteen years of age, were in a position to give me their undivided attention for a brief interval.

I told them that I had a very important matter on which I wanted their opinions. I suggested at once that I felt that they were capable themselves of managing the playground, with its seven acres and accompanying equipment, as well as the large numbers of children in attendance.

"Sure we can," said some.

PURE DEMOCRACY IN PLAYGROUND MANAGEMENT

"I'll lick any kid who don't do as I say," remarked one youngster who appeared to be able to back his statement.

But, in the minds of the more thoughtful ones, serious problems arose.

"My mother wouldn't let me come if there was no one here to take care of us."

"Everybody would get to fighting over the things to play with."

"There's gotta be someone to boss things."

"None of the kids would mind any of the others."

"Well," I suggested, "Suppose we run the playground as the town is run. They have three selectmen who decide between them how things are to be done. The people elect these men themselves. After they have chosen men whom they are willing to trust with the affairs of management, they do as these selectmen say. If the people don't like the way the selectmen run things, they put others in their places at the next election. But, at the time they have to do as the selectmen decide."

"My father is a selectman," said one, "I'd like to be a selectman and then he could tell me what to do."

"But we gotta have more than just selectmen if we're gonna make it like a real town," said a barefooted youngster with a prominent chin, "We gotta have cops and firemen and everything."

"Yes," I continued, "We'd have a police force and a fire department. The cops would see that there was no swearing or vulgar talk; and get after any one who smoked cigarettes, or threw stones, or did anything that was not allowed on the playground."

"But," said he of the square jaw, "if we pinched a feller, what'd we do with him? There oughta' be a judge. Why don't you be the judge?"

I assured him that I should be glad to act in that capacity provided I was appointed.

"What would the firemen do?" asked another, "We never have a fire here."

"No," I replied, "We might never have a fire, but firemen are expected to do anything where dangerous climbing is necessary. They would put up and take down all the swings, rings, giant-strides, teeter-boards and all the other apparatus; and see that everything was always safe to use."

"The one that can climb better than any one else oughta' be

PURE DEMOCRACY IN PLAYGROUND MANAGEMENT

chief," proposed he. "I can climb anything here without a ladder or nuthin.' I clumb to the top of the flagpole the other night."

"Then," I went on, "We'd need a board of health. You know their business is to get rid of anything that is dangerous to health. They would keep the ground clear of broken glass; and stop any one from throwing around apple cores, banana skins, watermelon rinds, or anything that would decay or draw flies. Water commissioners would keep the drinking fountain sanitary; see that all drains on the ground were kept clear; and also report to the police any one interfering with these things in any way."

"I saw a kid tryin' to stuff a frog in the drinkin' fountain this mornin' before you come," someone volunteered.

"Park commissioners," I resumed, "would see that no one injured trees or shrubs. They would keep the grounds neat by seeing that no one threw tin cans, papers or anything like that on the grounds.

"Each of these town officers would wear a silver badge with the words 'Greenwood Playground' and his office stamped on it. They would take the same oath of office as the town officers of Gardner now take."

"But what will the girls do?" asked one, in a grieved tone.

"Of course," I replied, "In all up-to-date towns and cities, women vote and hold office just the same as men. If we are going to have a modern government we must have equal suffrage."

"Say, this is going to be great!"

"Ma says she wants to vote; and now I'll get a chance before she does."

"When can we start?" came in a chorus.

"Look what I got!" interrupted a ragged little shaver of eight years, at the same time presenting me with a corn flake box filled with a fine assortment of broken glass, apple cores, candy and gum wrappers, and the like. His aspirations for a place on the board of health were quite evident.

"This is a big change to make," I cautioned, "And we want it to be successful, so we'd better go slowly. You know, this playground, like most other playgrounds, has always been ruled like a kingdom or an empire, by one or two persons; and, if you are now to run things yourselves, it will be a democracy. When a monarchy becomes a democracy through a revolution or abdication

PURE DEMOCRACY IN PLAYGROUND MANAGEMENT

of the ruler, a provisional government is generally set up until the people can hold primaries to nominate officers; and then give every one a chance to vote, and elect the officers they want."

"Why don't you say who the ones are to be to run things for awhile," came a suggestion, "Then we can nominate and vote for the regular ones."

"Then we can see how the ones you put in can do it; and we can tell them if we want to elect them for keeps," suggested another.

So in true democratic fashion the will of the people was carried out. The following day the provisional appointments were made; three selectmen, a police chief and three officers, a fire chief and three firemen, three members of the board of health, three water commissioners and three park commissioners. I set myself up as provisional judge with my assistant as a juror. The twenty officers of the town official staff were duly sworn in, their term of office to expire on the day following the regular election. Twenty badges of office were distributed, to be returned at the expiration of the term of office. These proved to be a very important part of the new plan.

Numerous inquiries regarding the duties of office, conduct of primaries and election, and the like flooded the "court"; aside from the cases coming up for trial, which were many and the charges as varied. With the coming of election, the attempts on the part of various candidates to win political favor were characteristic of greater politicians. Generosity was rampant.

It was decided that the minimum age of voters should be ten years. When, finally, the regular officers were elected, and the new democracy firmly established, the development of the various essential qualities of the several officers was phenomenal. Confidential advice from the "bench" now regularly appointed, was often sought. Selectmen were warned against the disastrous effect of an attitude of all-importance toward their townpeople. Tactful aggressiveness, a quality as essential as it is rare in juvenile police officers, was necessarily emphasized. "Safety First," the slogan of the fire department, was applied personally to the ever-reckless members of the department who, to exhibit their rapidly developing skill in putting up and taking down apparatus, insisted upon dispensing altogether with the heretofore necessary ladders. A child eating an apple was shadowed by a member of the board of health, not for "coresy" this time, but to see that

PURE DEMOCRACY IN PLAYGROUND MANAGEMENT

the core was properly deposited in the refuse can. The line in waiting at the drinking fountain was no longer given an unappreciated shower bath by some mischievous youngster who had drunk his fill. Those who craved publicity, and, heretofore, carved their initials in playground trees, now satisfied that craving by serving as a park commissioner and protecting the trees from this abuse.

That the effects of this experiment were felt in the homes of the children as well, was soon evident. The police chief, a girl of thirteen, of sturdy physique, showed natural ability in the handling of the three boys under her supervision. However, her duties became particularly trying on Saturday afternoons when the grounds were used by the town baseball team for a weekly home game. In the presence of the older men, on one of these occasions, members of the force failed to carry out the instructions of their chief, who, as a result, was not on duty the following Saturday. During the next week, however, her mother informed us that she had learned why Nellie was not on the ground. The mother said that she would see that the girl was there Saturday afternoons thereafter, and that if she was not able to do what was expected of her she should resign. She was not absent again nor did she resign.

Another instance of the cooperation of parents came to our attention when the Women's Relief Corps had arranged to present a large flag to the playground. The board of selectmen, two boys and a girl, were called together to decide which should make the speech of acceptance for the town. All refused. The following day, however, the girl said she would do it, her mother having told her that she should show them that women in public office could do things which men had not the courage to attempt.

The crowning feature in this respect came in connection with the town officers' outing. It was reported that on the way home the three police officers and two of the firemen were smoking cigarettes. It was decided that their resignations should be requested, and this fact published in the "Gardner Daily News." Each boy returned his badge upon being notified of the decision. The next day three of these boys came on the ground together, a solemn spectacle. The publicity which they, as town officers, had enjoyed was now their undoing.

One volunteered this bit of information, "My old man give

WAR-TIME STATUS OF PLAYGROUND WORK

me an awful beatin', last night. He says to me, 'You'll smoke cigarettes and get thrown out of the playground fire department, will you? I'll show you.'"

Another said more hopefully, "My mother saw it first, and she knew what the old man would do to me, so she didn't let him see it; but just gave me a talking to."

A third produced the condemning item itself, exclaiming triumphantly, "See that! I cut it out as soon as the paper came and told 'em it was just somethin' about the playgrounds that I wanted to keep."

The selectman, a newsboy barely thirteen years of age, who had suggested publishing this, showed a keen perception of the great weight of publicity used as a weapon for punishment.

In general with the passing of the oligarchy, and the dawn of the democracy, the Greenwood Playground became not only a safer place for recreation; but it became a great juvenile educational center.

Extracts from War-Time Status of Playground Work*

O. W. DOUGLAS

During a time of great national stress the people of a nation turn most naturally to the business of making an inventory, and planning most earnestly and seriously for the future.

Unfortunately the inventory and planning are apt to follow too closely along lines of the purely material. In war time it is only human to think in terms of military expediency, and at the present time there is danger of not looking far enough ahead.

All righteous wars have been fought, not so much for the immediate gain or value to the living adult population, as for the benefit to posterity. It is therefore our children and our children's children that will, we hope, benefit most as a result of this war for the life and perpetuation of democracies. This being true it is especially necessary that we do not neglect those great efforts along child welfare lines so recently and so well begun.

* Courtesy of Pacific Municipalities, June, 1917

WAR-TIME STATUS OF PLAYGROUND WORK

**"Don't Grind
Your Seed Corn"**

During the waning days of the Southern Confederacy, when it seemed as if the very children would be drawn into the maelstrom, Confederate President Jeff Davis admonished his people, saying, "The children of a nation are its seed corn. Don't grind your seed corn."

This warning by the leader of a lost cause at the time of a great crisis is no less of value at the present time.

A discussion of one result of playground development on civic life will have to suffice in this brief article at this time. This is the result observed and recorded in connection with the juvenile courts. By actual statistics it has been shown that the general average of juvenile delinquency in communities establishing equipped and supervised playgrounds has been reduced fully fifty per cent. In one Ohio city of 35,000 population the Judge of the Juvenile Court reported a decrease of cases coming before him of seven hundred per cent during the first year of playground activity when thirteen units were equipped and supervised. When asked by a newspaper reporter why he had nothing to do he said: "The boys are too busy on the playgrounds to get into meanness." And he said nothing of the reduction of the number of accidents to children when formerly playing in the streets.

Owing, therefore, to the attainment of results enumerated above it may readily be seen that it is not at all necessary to confine playground privileges and activities to the larger cities. Hence towns and villages, and even rural schools, are going into this matter vigorously in many localities with most satisfying results. Even the country boy and girl not only need, but are entitled, to play equipment, supervision and encouragement.

In conclusion, a warning from the experience of England during the present world war is worth most careful consideration in this country at this time.

Owing to conditions soon after the war opened some schools were closed, playgrounds neglected, children were turned loose on the streets, or put at hard work, expenses for schools and playgrounds were reduced, all with appalling results. During the year 1915 juvenile delinquency throughout England showed an average increase of 34 per cent. In the city of Manchester the increase was 56 per cent. England is now struggling to get her children back in school, to restore her playground activities and facilities, and is otherwise endeavoring to attain the necessary normal standards existing before the war.

FOLK DANCING BEHIND THE LINES

Nor has England alone suffered. In Berlin juvenile delinquency doubled during the first year of the war, and in Munich the first three months of 1915 showed a greater total than for the entire year of 1914.

If the above experiences are worth anything as examples they should say to the people of the United States that we must not start retrenchment with the children of our land. Retrench we must, but let it not fall upon the school and recreation work of our children.

"Don't grind your seed corn."

Folk Dancing behind The Lines

One of the very interesting developments in recreational work for the soldiers at the base and convalescent hospitals in France has been the teaching of folk and Morris dancing. The English Folk Dance Society has a representative, Miss D. C. Daking, behind the lines in France teaching the soldiers folk dancing. Extracts from some of her letters to Mr. Cecil Sharp, president of the Society, show the delight with which the men are taking part in these activities and are of special interest in view of the fact that some of the English officers are considering having the English folk and Morris dances introduced into the regular army gymnastics.

DEAR MR. SHARP:

I write you a report of my last four months in France.

I was asked by the Y. M. C. A. to go out to one of the Bases and see if the men would care for folk dancing. It was very difficult at first, because the entertainments and fun consisted of comic songs and rag-time and gramaphones, and no one knew anything of folk dancing. I couldn't show it with no one to demonstrate, and people refused to learn till they had seen it.

I used to go round to our huts in the different camps with a set of rappers under my arm, and talk to little bunches of men just where I happened to find interest. They wouldn't learn, because, of course, all classes had to be held in the concert huts, and there were always dozens there watching and that made people shy. Then I got a central class-room from the Y. M.

FOLK DANCING BEHIND THE LINES

C. A., and picked a man here and a man there, and we began—and then I roped in some of the Y. M. C. A. girls who do clerical work and have their evenings off, and they went crazy over country dances. Then as my few men began to be good, they didn't mind dancing at camp classes, so I could start a class with two men and gradually the watchers would come in.

Since then we have given twelve demonstrations to average audiences of 500. Never less than 300, and often up to 700. I talk a little history and they like that very much. The men are frightfully keen. They cheer the roof off and run with our car all through the camps when we leave afterwards.

I am now the official Folk Dancing Department of the Y. M. C. A. I have been allowed eight military passes for assistants, and am told by the Y. M. C. A. that I may engage whom I choose and place them in other Bases. Of course, I don't want six others all at once, because I think it better to get their Bases ready for them, instead of pitching them into it as I was at first, with no popular opinion for backing and no pupils ready to learn.

I've formed a Y. M. C. A. Branch of the English Folk Dancing Society. I thought it well to make ourselves as official as possible. Members are interested and keen. My idea is that they will join their home branches of the English Folk Dancing Society when they return to England. I have a lot of clergymen on it and all kinds of folk. Martin Harvey joined because it was really good art and genuine; and Gipsy Smith joined because he said it was splendid stuff for keeping the boys out of mischief.

I have a really good class of regular army gym instructors—six of them, mostly sergeant majors. They, of course, are permanent men and in charge of the training camps. I'll be able to make rather fine dancers of them, and they are tremendously keen. They want to put it into the army gyms along with other games. They all mean to come to Stratford after the war.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) D. C. DAKING

DEAR MR. SHARP:

I've had a thrilling piece of work at Trouville in an enormous convalescent camp. I mustn't of course give you the

FOLK DANCING BEHIND THE LINES

number of thousands of the men there. All the staff are medical and the whole spirit of the camp is for sports and games and anything to divert the men. I took over a big demonstration (we were hung up there for three days because the weather was too bad for boats to cross, but that's by the way) and we swept every one into real enthusiasm. Since then I have gone over as often as I could and given large classes in two of the camps to the gym instructors and a good many of the N. C. O's. My two colonels are enthusiastic and one or other always drops in to watch the classes. One has said that he would like every man in camp to be able to dance the Kirkby [sword dance]. I am told that last week the gym instructors took fifteen hundred men on the race-course and began to teach steps, with the band in the middle.

Mrs. Kennedy is now looking for some one else, as Abbeville is asking for help. It is most difficult. People have to be so very 'right'. It isn't so much the teaching of advanced work which is needed, but the handling of, very often, rather difficult audiences. And also there's the question of mess invitations and our enertaining. . . .

Then I've had an invitation from a society in Paris called the Academie. It has been started, I think, since the war, for the furtherance of sports and pastimes amongst the women and girls of France. I am invited to go to Paris for a few days to explain and show our dances.

We gave a demonstration on Thursday at a huge French and English Bazaar and the room was packed. And there's our International Concert at the Theatre for which we are doing dances and folk songs. Everything leads to something else.

It is wonderful to be here amongst our own people. Do you know, now they are living such a primitive, simple life, everything seems to have left them but the old wonderful simplicity—and everywhere one goes one sees it most wonderfully—just the very part of us that is shown so clearly in our dances and tunes—and out here it is to be found uppermost in practically every man we come in contact with. I suppose that's one reason why they take so to the dances; it appeals so to them now they've lost their frills and fripperies and city ways.

Yours very sincerely,
(Signed) D. C. DAKING

A Word on Recreation

From the Standpoint of the Training Camp

Lieutenant Eustace M. Peixotto writes in the San Francisco *Recreation League Bulletin* for September:

"The first 'recreation instinct' of one who has been kept hard at work at a military camp for a day or days is to get out of it. Change of scene, food, and companions are the prime requisites of a 'good time.' I believe, therefore, that where camps are near cities and not in isolated locations, the work of the committees having to do with soldiers' amusements in those adjacent cities is vastly more important than that of the Y. M. C. A., which is making its field the provision of recreation within the camp boundaries. I do not wish to minimize the work or the possibilities for work of the Y. M. C. A., but I do wish to lay stress on the psychology of change in this connection, for I believe it to be basic.

"Camp life is monotonous. You get up at the same hour every day, work with the same group of men on much the same routine of drills and exercises, eat meals which are prepared and served strictly as replenishers of bodily waste and not as the artistic creations of gastronomic specialists, and your lights go out at exactly the same hour every evening. An excellent life to lead, not unenjoyable in itself, but monotonous.

"Into this regular existence, then, comes at stated intervals, leave. What is your first impulse? To seek something entirely different, to catch the first car for town where lights are bright, streets full of new faces, and everything as different from the camp as day from night. It isn't that you don't like the camp or the army life, not at all. It is just that recreation, variety, and the spice of life are synonymous terms.

"More power then to the Recreation Committee for Soldiers and Sailors. 'Take the boys home to dinner.' Believe me, a home dinner tastes good after a week of camp 'chow'! Provide other amusements, not athletics so much as less strenuous pursuits. Remember the recruits will get a systematic course in physical training for an hour and a half each day besides the military drills, marches and trench digging, so don't think it necessary that the recreation be 'active' and that 'everyone should participate.' Leave that side to the army it-

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

self! With the exception of dancing, which somehow is different, your man on leave will want to be amused, not to give the show himself. To see a play or a movie, to talk to people and get a chance to tell about his new life, to view the sights of the city and surrounding country, preferably in an auto—these are some of the pleasures that would, in my judgment, appeal most to most men.

"From what I know of the plans of the Committee of Recreation for Soldiers and Sailors, it is these things which it is endeavoring to supply. The League as a body and its members as individuals should devote every effort to the furtherance of this work. With San Francisco the daily recreation ground of the thousands at the Presidio and the week-end resort of the tens of thousands at Camp Fremont, it presents a fertile field for work, one that will require all the available labor to produce an adequate crop and to keep it free from weeds and weevils."

Who Is Responsible ?

A resident of X while strolling through one of the fields where Pickett made his famous charge in the Civil War, and where some of the men of our National Army are now drilling, came across a tall young soldier lying on the ground crying like a child. She waited until the storm was over, and then asked what the trouble was. He was not afraid to fight, he told her, in a boyish shame-faced manner, but he had just received a letter from his mother who was a cripple, and the thought of her loneliness and grief at his absence was too much for him. He was her only son, and the one member of the family strong enough to carry her in and out of doors.

"Of course," said someone to whom she told the story, "you invited that young man to your home, to meet your daughters and your friends." "Why, no," came the answer, "I never thought of asking a soldier to visit my home."

Here had been a wonderful opportunity which she had failed to grasp—not through lack of heart, but through failure to understand. Her subsequent search for that homesick boy was fruitless. He had been "sent over there."

To help the women of Xville and other cities where our

BOYS IN KHAKE AND THEIR CLUBS

boys are in training realize their responsibilities and opportunities; to help citizens through organized effort to make available for the use of the soldiers all the resources their city has to offer, is the work of the War Camp Community Service maintained by the Playground and Recreation Association of America as it sends to the cities near the camps its community organizers.

Boys in Khaki and Their Clubs

If there is any doubt in your mind about the soldiers' appreciation of the club rooms which War Camp Community Service bureaus are providing in the camp cities, spend an evening at the Soldiers' Club at Ayer, Mass., and talk with the men who are coming there from Camp Devens.

"My mother would like to thank you for this building," said one soldier, "because since I began coming here I have written more letters than in all my three months in camp, all because you have made this place homey and attractive to me."

"My husband telephoned me from here one night," said a young wife. "He said this is the best place yet." And when one of the workers of the club helped her to find a lodging place she said, "You do everything you can for the men, don't you? Isn't there anything I can do for you? Have you sheet music enough?" The worker admitted they had not and she promised to go back and raise some money from her friends to buy popular music.

The men appreciate the homelikeness of scattered tables and chairs, the touch of color in the furnishings of the rooms and other features which make the building attractive and lovable. "Mr. Brown, this reminds me of home," said one lad. "I thank you for such a place to come to. I shall drop in here every time I am down town." "This is the nearest like home I have had since I have been in Ayer," said another. "You fellows certainly try to make us boys enjoy ourselves." A third exclaimed, "My, but I have had a good evening. It is worth a lot to be able to enjoy your club."

From the depths of an easy chair a soldier said, "The first time I came into the club I just sat and rocked all evening. I had not been in a comfortable chair since I came to camp.

BOYS IN KHAKE AND THEIR CLUBS

You know we always stand or lie in the barracks because there is no good place to sit."

The gratitude of one soldier was of the sort which had to have an outlet. "I have had such an enjoyable time here that I want to contribute \$1 towards the up-keep of the place," he said. "I hope I may find just such a place wherever I am sent."

Mothers and Khaki Clubs

It is from the mothers that the most moving expressions of appreciation come. One big-eyed rather pathetic little mother repeated over and over again her appreciation of the fact that such a splendid place had been provided not only for her boy but for all of them. "It keeps them from going to places and doing things that they shouldn't," was the burden of her talk. "My boy was never away from me before," she said, "and I was so afraid he might be led into wrong doing. He had always been such a good boy. I am so glad he has a place like this to come to."

One very charming mother was particularly interested in the way in which the dances were safeguarded by admitting only invited and properly chaperoned girls. Her boy had told her that dancing was practically the only amusement he cared for. "It is the mothers who really appreciate the care in your selection of girls for their sons to dance with", she said. A mother and son and a girl who may have been his sweetheart, though they did not advertise the fact as many young couples do, spent the most of one Sunday at the club house. They were particularly outspoken in their appreciation. "And what do you think, Mother," exclaimed the boy, "you can bowl here for five cents a string." One interesting group who spent most of a day at the club was made up of a soldier, an engineer of the Railroad Engineer group who expected to leave that week for France, and his aunt and cousin who had come to bid him good-bye because he had no family in the East to see him off. It was the first time they had ever seen him in their lives but they were there to represent his family who could not come. They were almost touchingly pleased when the volunteer worker whom they did not know and who normally would have no special interest in them was so anxious to have them comfortable.

BOYS IN KHAKE AND THEIR CLUBS

Khaki Clubs Serve All

Perhaps the opportunity for unexpected service that a club can render is as well illustrated by the following instances as in any way.

A soldier was found asleep at the Ayer Club with his head on the table. When he woke he was very apologetic, saying that he had a bad headache and that he had just come from a 36-hour stretch of cooking duty with practically no chance to rest, owing to the illness of the man who should have taken his place. The volunteer worker gave him some medicine for his headache and some refreshment. He took a bath and then a bed was made up for him in the balcony where he slept until the middle of the next morning. He was a made-over boy then and so grateful for the rest.

Probably no man has ever been more grateful, however, than the one who brought his charming wife and dainty little five-year-old daughter to the club in desperation after having spent the previous night at an unspeakable lodging house because there was no room anywhere. By rare good chance there was an unused bed—an unusual occurrence—so they were taken in. There is nothing that couple would not do to further the interests of the club.

Then there was the woman who came from Boston on one of the coldest Sundays of all with a three-weeks-old baby in her arms. There were three more at home and the soldier was very much upset because he had to leave his wife alone to look after four children. The baby was put to bed in the janitor's bed and they were given an opportunity for a quiet visit together.

The khaki club is more than a mere recreation place. It is a place to which the men come for help and advice in their difficulties and to which they invariably turn in an emergency.

The greatest surprise of the dozen years in which I have been in the present line of work is the discovery of the important connection between the physical vigor of a community and its output.—ROGER N. BABSON

English Women Play Their Part in the World War

Miss Helen Fraser, an English woman who from the beginning of the war has been associated with work for girls and women in England, painted a vivid picture, at a meeting of the War Workers' Council of the Y. W. C. A., of the work which English women are doing, and of the steps which the government is taking to safeguard them.

Women in Industry

One and one-half million women are taking the place of men in industries. The vast majority of them are in the munition factories, by which is meant not only the plants manufacturing ammunition, but all the factories in which uniforms and all equipment needed in the conduct of the war are made. One hundred of the factories in which women are working belong to the government; five thousand others privately owned are controlled by the government. In Gretna alone, one hundred thousand women away from their own homes have been used by the government, which has built many cottages and a number of large hostels. The Y. W. C. A. has additional hostels here, and many club centers and restaurants.

Welfare Work by the Government

In all government-owned and controlled factories the Welfare Department of the Ministry of Munitions which as a part of its work is training welfare workers, has placed a woman worker in charge. This welfare worker in addition to supervising conditions in the factories relating to the welfare of the women employees, providing rest rooms and recreation for the workers, visits them in their homes, sees to it that the children of the married women are properly cared for and makes their home conditions as much a matter of her concern as factory conditions.

Women Patrols

There are now three thousand women patrols in England patrolling districts near the camps. These women, who are volunteers, give up two or three evenings each week to the work. The

ENGLISH WOMEN PLAY THEIR PART IN THE WAR

government has appropriated four hundred pounds a year for the training of these volunteers.

Policewomen At the beginning of the war there were no policewomen in England. There are now seven hundred women police officers, six hundred of whom are in munition factory districts. They see to it that adequate and good transportation facilities are provided to take the girls to their work, and travel with them to see that conditions are as they should be. They protect girls in every possible way and have the power to remove bad women from the vicinity of the camps. The police have found their services most valuable and they are recognized as one of the big factors in helping to solve England's problem.

England's Army of Women in France At the rate of ten thousand a month English women between the ages of twenty and forty are being recruited to go to the military bases in France for service of various kinds. They are taken first to the bases in England where they are given military training and placed under military discipline under the direction of carefully selected officers. They are paid about thirty-seven cents a day, the pay received by privates in the army and are given uniforms. Girls are recruited to do clerical service, telephoning, telegraphing and light labor. Skilled gardeners and laborers are chosen to care for the cemeteries in France where England's dead are buried. Still another group, comprising the motor corps, performs light transport and ambulance service.

When the women go to France, while they are under military discipline they are to a great degree put on their honor and the fundamental principle which is inculcated in them is that they must do nothing to disgrace their uniform. They live in barracks in the camps and are allowed to talk to and mingle with the soldiers, often entertaining them in their recreation huts which in France are under the direction of the Y. W. C. A.

That the constructive and productive work for girls which has been done in England by the government and private avenues has been effective is evidenced by the fact that for the first two years of the war the birth rate of illegitimate children was lower than it was before the war.

“The Wasted Years”

Preface by EDWARD T. HARTMAN, Secretary, Massachusetts Civic League, Boston, Massachusetts.

PREFACE†

All through the life of a feeble-bodied man, his path is lined with memory's grave-stones which mark the spots where noble enterprises perished for lack of physical vigor to embody them in deeds.—*Horace Mann*

After the war had been going on for two years the *London Nation* published, on September 23, 1916, “The Wasted Years.” The League re-publishes it because of its statesman-like attitude toward a fundamental and pressing question.

The article might have been written with reference to any of the major movements in which the League has been active: housing, play and recreation, medical inspection in the schools. Particularly might it have had reference to physical education (man-culture is a better, though unsatisfactory, term) with which the League is now working. It might have had reference to the last two years, wasted in this respect by the Massachusetts legislature.

Massachusetts is under the draft rejecting over 40% of her young men. The state and its municipalities are spending over \$10,000,000 annually for curative work and care of incurables. Massachusetts has 829 incorporated private charities which spent \$17,339,741 in 1917. A host of unincorporated charities and trusts spent sundry additional millions.

Thirty million American wage earners lose every year from sickness an average of nine days each, a wage loss at \$2.50 a day of \$675,000,000, with a cost for treatment of \$180,000,000.

As *The Nation* points out, we can no longer afford to ignore the causes. Our patch-work is ruinous both financially and in demonstrated deterioration of our human staple. And yet we go on with it, ignoring the economies, the humanity, the imperative need of a program which will enable us to advance.

Why not adopt a sane, forward-looking policy of constructive prevention? After-care alone, by wholesale public and private charity under various names, means exhausted resources,

*Courtesy of *The Nation* (London) Sept. 23, 1916.

†Courtesy of Massachusetts Civic League

THE WASTED YEARS

human and financial, and an ultimate condition more deplorable than before.

The article appended will warrant your closest scrutiny. After you have read it the League would welcome your suggestions and your active cooperation in forwarding the movement toward a healthier and more capable state and nation.

Anyone who watches a number of town recruits at drill and then turns to look at a group of officers will see at once a literal and striking illustration of Disraeli's dictum about the two natures. He understands, at a glance, what a difference it makes whether a man comes from the class that enjoys fresh air, healthy games, and good food from boyhood to manhood, or whether it has been his lot to work during the years of adolescence in exhausted air, with deficient nourishment, and under conditions that arrest development and produce nervous fatigue. Men belonging to the first class who went into the ranks of our New Army were struck by the difficulty which recruits who had come from the mill or the counter found in enduring the strain of a long route march or a hard day's work in the field in the early days of training. It was not merely that muscles which had never been used were being brought into play for the first time, as happens when one learns to ride a bicycle or a horse. There was a general sense of disability which weakened and almost overcame the will: the kind of insufficiency that is to be expected in men or youths who have been living habitually on their nervous energy, when they are confronted with a long and grinding task and cannot find any stimulus to sustain them in their surroundings. In the great story of England's effort, no small part of the credit must go to the pain and struggle with which these men have conquered the terrible legacy of their youth and turned themselves into strong and able soldiers. For to the depressing and accusing spectacle of great numbers of men whose bodies have been cramped and enfeebled by an industrial system which exploited their growing years, there comes a sequel. Probably never in the history of the world has it happened that a great part of a nation has improved its physical standard so rapidly. In whole battalions of Lancashire recruits the uniforms that were issued on enlistment have been exchanged since for larger sizes, and

THE WASTED YEARS

the people of the districts where the new armies have been billeted have remarked the extraordinary change that has come over these soldiers with a few months of open air and good food.

The war has brought home to most of us a sense of guilt and shame in regard to this dreadful waste of the vigor and the happiness of the race. It is therefore to a people awakened as it has never been before, that Sir George Newman appeals in his annual report to the Board of Education published last week; for he speaks to a people agreed that no self-respecting nation can go back after this war to the state of things which makes the proper development of the body and mind the luxury of a small and privileged class. This reparation at least we will make to the thousands to whom their country had given nothing and from whom she has taken their all. It shall never again be said that it is not until they are needed for the terrible uses of war that any care is taken of the mass of the youth of the country. And providence for the future urges the same truth. Some, indeed, are thinking of the soldiers of the future, others of the workmen of the future; others, again, of the citizens of the future; but all who are thinking at all realize that we have to make whatever sacrifices are necessary to secure the conditions of a healthy and vigorous life and growth to all classes. We have had warnings and instructions enough. The Board of Education has reminded us in its excellent literature on physical training that the training of the body is part of the training of the mind, having an important relation to the actual development of the brain. We have had a report on playgrounds which shows how miserably inadequate is the provision made at present for the children in the elementary schools. We have had reports from the Consultative Committee on Continuation Schools which warn us that the tendency to exploit childhood and youth is actually increasing, and that there are signs that the factory system is beginning to seize on the improved human material turned out by the modern elementary school. We know from the same authority that it could be affirmed six years ago that "not more than 5% of the youthful portion of the industrial population was touched by anything in the shape of recreative agency." And now comes Sir George Newman's report, which warns us that the war has made the immediate problem more urgent than ever, for the

THE WASTED YEARS

special conditions have taken some fifty thousand children, on a modest estimate, out of the schools at an abnormally early age. Lastly, a most important conclusion has now been established by experience. It is this. The best material for an army is not produced by military drill. What is wanted in young men is the full development of their limbs and minds, giving carriage, tone, muscle, and readiness. Military drill kills interest and spirit in boys; it becomes wearisome and monotonous. Routine drill is necessary in an army, but it puts on the finishing and not the creative touches. It is not educational in itself, for in some sense it tends to cramp the mind; nor is it the best means of training eye or hand or muscle. If, therefore, we want to produce men who will make good soldiers quickly, we cannot do better than give them a generous and well-considered system of physical training in adolescence, in which marching, drill and rifle drill would be a very subordinate element. In the Army, it must be remembered, Swedish exercises are an important part of military training. Hence, whether we are fearing war in the future or preparing for peace in the future, wisdom and prudence call for the same measures.

It was commonly said before the war, when this or that reform was proposed, that the taxpayer could not stand it, or industry could not stand it, or public opinion was not ready for it. The war has shown us how hollow many of these objections were, how timidly we had estimated our powers and resources, and it has brought home to us the sovereign importance of the quality of a nation's life. We cannot repeat that mistake to-day. "If we are determined to rear a healthy and virile race, of high capacity", says Sir George Newman, "we must, from a physical standpoint, begin earlier and continue later than the hitherto accepted period of education. What is needed, indeed, is an effective supervision and a sound practical training of the body from the end of infancy to adolescence. It is said sometimes that, in the interest of economy, the State cannot afford such a complete scheme. My submission is that in the interest of economy, the State cannot afford to neglect a complete scheme." That is the spirit in which the nation has to face its future. We count our youth with feverish anxiety to-day, for our boys of eighteen are not the property of this or that employer, or the disused and discarded instruments of this

RECREATION AND THE WAR

or that wasteful trade, but the arm of a nation fighting for its life. How shall we think of them tomorrow? Will we think of them again as van-boys, errand boys, piercers' or riveters' boys in whom the nation takes no interest, for whom it feels no concern, for whom school life and its games and its ambitions come to an end as soon as an employer can find a use for their fingers or their muscles. Or shall we think of our youth as boys and girls, the promise of men and women, whose minds and bodies no nation can afford to squander? On the answer to that question it depends whether democracy can win those greater battles for which civilization has to prepare on larger playing-fields than those of Eton, an Army which is not a class but a whole people.

Recreation and the War

T. Dinsmore Upton, Superintendent of the Division of Recreation, Grand Rapids, Michigan, speaking on *Recreation and the War*, said in part:

There never has been a time in the world's history when we have needed organized play for the younger generation as we do today—in the midst of a world war. The terrible social and economic effects of war are not now so noticeable as they will be in a decade, yet already the juvenile delinquency in the warring nations of our allies has increased fifty-three per cent since the war began. The one greatest combating influence against the terrible effect of war on those too young to take part, is training along the right lines with regard to games, and playing them fairly.

The greatest product of autocratic rule, as regards the playing of games, is the losing sight of all fairness in an effort to win by any possible means. Four years ago, before this war began, a splendid Olympic athlete told me that German athletes thought first and foremost of winning—by any means. That is the same spirit which was evidenced when German autocratic powers pronounced a treaty not worth the paper it was written on.

I cannot conceive of an American, a Frenchman nor an Englishman firing upon an enemy after showing, or while showing, a flag of truce. I cannot conceive of their ravaging the defenseless, nor restoring to the means autocracy has used, to

TWELFTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF BOYS' CLUBS

gain her ends. Why? Why, because their sense of fairness, ingrained in them by proper training in the playing of games, doesn't allow them to conceive of it.

When the Japanese champions in tennis returned to Japan from America, they bore home wonderful tales of the American idea of sportsmanship. In my estimation, there could be no finer compliment payed to any nation. The splendid English idea of fairness is as proverbial as their bulldog tenacity and courage. What fostered it? Primarily their love of a generous winner and a courageous loser on the playing field.

We are engaged now in the most terrible of all wars, for the reason that the government of a nation doesn't know what fairness in the playing of the finest of all games—life—means. Isn't the true spirit of democracy, the "fair play" spirit?—the spirit of every man's playing for the team—not for the glory of a single leader?

I have heard it said that in times like these we should not think of joyous things—of play, of song, of laughter. There never has been a time since God's original dawn when we just had to have these things as we do now. The very preservation of the future of our nation depends on the things we teach the men and women of tomorrow. What shall count as much as the true spirit of manliness and womanliness taught in the playing of games, where the sense of fairness—of courtesy to the loser, of right feeling toward the winner, shall be taught.

The world is to be won for democracy. And democracy means oneness and fairness in playing the game of life. Democracy needs that the younger generation play and prepare.

Twelfth Annual Conference of Boys' Club Federation

The Twelfth Annual Conference of the Boys' Club Federation was held at Philadelphia, May 21-23, in Houston Hall, University of Pennsylvania, and was the largest attended conference in the history of Boys' Club work.

Emphasis was laid upon the demonstration of practical Boys' Club activities, and the most up-to-date methods in physical work was demonstrated by instructors in physical education of the University, with Older Boy Delegates as the class.

TWELFTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF BOYS' CLUBS

A demonstration of the work of the Woodcraft League was conducted by Ernest Thompson Seton, its founder. Other demonstrations were made of debating and dramatics in Boys' Club work, and of storytelling to boys.

Among the addresses creating much favorable discussion was one by Dr. F. B. Kelley of New York City on *Teaching History and Civics in Boys' Clubs*. Illustrating his lecture with lantern slides Dr. Kelley presented an activity that appealed greatly to the Boys' Club workers assembled. He pointed out that the objective in this type of work was the development of a clear understanding of government, and an appreciation of its problems. To be most effective such work must be personal and original, and a greater latitude allowed than is possible in the activities of a classroom. Historic spots in each city may be visited and studied, steps taken to make them better known, if obscure, and plans made for their preservation. Literature has been issued giving suggestive programs for several types of clubs working along these lines.

A study of the *Relation of the Boys' Club to the Home*, by Fred K. Zerbe, Superintendent of the Syracuse Boys' Club, was very helpful. Mr. Zerbe emphasized the need of a far closer cooperation between the Boys' Club and the home than has hitherto prevailed, and strongly advocated the employment of a friendly visitor in every club to bring this about.

The Third Annual Conference of the Older Boys' Association of the Boys' Club Federation was held in conjunction with the Federation Conference, and was attended by delegates from as far west as Chicago and south as Nashville. The sessions of the Older Boys' Conference were characterized by the most thorough and frank discussions of the subjects assigned.

Particularly interesting were the conclusions arrived at in the discussion of *Self-Government in Boys' Clubs*, and *Locked Doors on Sunday*. In the former the attitude was taken that to most perfectly carry out the aim of Boys' Club work—defined as character building for citizenship—it is essential that the plan of self-government on the basis of the national, state or municipal form of government be introduced into the Boys' Club. The reason for this is that only by actually performing the duties of citizens and themselves carrying out the theory of government can the members of a Boys' Club fully and early comprehend

HOPEDALE'S GLORIFIED MILL-POND

the meaning of citizenship. In the long discussion of this topic there was not a dissenting voice, and a resolution was adopted, urging the introduction of self-government into the Boys' Clubs of the country.

There was a greater difference of opinion with regard to *Locked Doors on Sunday*. The general conclusion, however, was that the needs vary in the different communities, and that where it can be shown that the need exists for the Boys' Club to open on Sunday, there should be no hesitancy about opening it. Whether the activities should be the same on weekdays or not created considerable discussion, and it was finally settled by a motion to the effect that this question be left to the discretion of the superintendent.

The closing banquet, given by the Curtis Publishing Co., in their building, was attended by both the adult and Older Boy delegates. A feature of the banquet was a series of stunts given by delegates from the various sections of the country. The speakers of the evening were Cyrus H. K. Curtis, President of the Curtis Publishing Co., and Allen D. Albert, Past International President of the Rotary Club.

Hopedale's Glorified Mill-Pond

ANOTHER PRIZE ARTICLE IN THE BEST THING IN YOUR TOWN CONTEST

JAMES CHURCH ALVORD, Littletown, Massachusetts

Hopedale, Massachusetts, has been "done to death," in the stock phrase of those who write and those who publish. After living in the village for four years I found that it was known by Germans, Italians, Englishmen and Frenchmen for its model homes, its paternal government, its famous strike against some of the conditions appertaining to paternalism. But there is one thing which, strangely, has never been cataloged abroad—this is its glorified mill-pond.

A mill-pond is an ugly spot, God wot. Never was an uglier pond than the bare, bulrush-shored, mucky stretch of bog and water which nestled, up to 1898, right in the heart of this community. From this dingy morass clouds of mosquitos arose each night to swoop down upon the unhappy inhabitants.

But in one famous day and year at the annual town meeting

* Courtesy of the Independent

HOPEDALE'S GLORIFIED MILL-POND

a few progressive souls advocated, as they had for a decade, "the purchase of about five acres for a town park" and succeeded. The town annually appropriates \$2500 for the care of the park, and the sale of trees brings in five hundred or so more. There has always been at the head of the work a scientifically-trained forester. The present man has held his place for thirteen years and is an artist in his line. His one ambition has been to keep the park with so carefully careless a grace that the casual visitor shall declare "nature did it all." Nature did—mighty little.

The first care of the committee was to attend to the immediate needs of the community; so an extra appropriation of twenty-five hundred was voted. The worst part of swamp-land, immediately under the noses of the villagers, was drained with catch-basins, a hedge of shrubbery was set about, and a field for football and baseball, as well as a bandstand, was built. An annual field day for athletic and aquatic sports has increased the interest of all in this portion of the park. Gradually too this end, into which a bit of orderly, artificial, decoration was allowed to creep, was fitted up for the recreation of the toilers. There is a bath-house, a shore of imported seasand, and wharfs for boats and canoes. Unfortunately a group of small boathouses have grown up, sheds of the shed-iest type; but their days are numbered.

Then slowly with the years began the work of transforming a hideous muck-hole to a lovely plaisance. The lakelet was drained, dead trees removed, boulders blasted; but the artistic sense sufficed and an ancient stone-fence, cutting under the waters, has been left. In a drought it makes an exciting bit to negotiate in a boat, yet is so lovely, so odd, that nobody complains. Huge lilies, a pink-stained variety and native to the pond, were encouraged; the lotus has begun to bloom in sheltered nooks. The townsfolk gather these blossoms by huge armfuls every morning, every social occasion overflows with them, and the two pulpits droop under their burden every Sabbath; but the supply never fails.

The appreciation of the people for their own work is immense. They own boats and canoes almost to a man—and a woman, and vote enthusiastically for the efforts at mosquito-extermination, while the attempt to induce the wild natives of the woods to seek refuge here is encouraged by everybody. The result is that squirrel, pheasants, quail, rabbits, as well as all the common, and uncommon birds have learned that in this park is safety from the volley of the gun.

HOPEDALE'S GLORIFIED MILL-POND

From the nearer end of the water pleasant glimpses show the huge factory looming up like some medieval factory and houses "beside the pond" are in wide demand. Only the very fortunate obtain one right on the shore and, having obtained one, never let it go.

The whole morale of the village is raised and transfigured by Hopedale's glorified mill-pond.



When you want
the best

specify **SPALDING**
ALL-STEEL

Used year after year in the
majority of the country's
playgrounds

WRITE FOR CATALOG

A. G. Spalding & Bros.

Chicopee, Mass.

Look
for
this
Mark
of
Quality



SUMMER SCHOOL

June 24—Aug. 2, for

Playground Training

Pestalozzi-Froebel Training School

A Normal School for
Playground Workers

On Chicago's Lake Front

Credits toward Diploma. Folk Dancing,
Pageantry, Games, Story Telling, Gymnas-
tics. *Playground Practice.* Strong
Faculty. Accredited. For *Illustrated*
Summer Bulletin address

REGISTRAR, Box 71

616-22 So Michigan Blvd., CHICAGO, ILL.
(Note: Regular Fall Term opens Sept. 17)

Have You Tried Athletic Badge Tests for Boys and Girls?

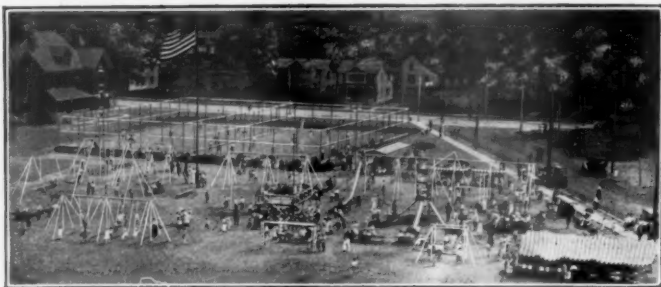
Physical Efficiency is the Watch
Word of these Tests.

Complete descriptive pamphlets
will be sent upon request.

Playground and Recreation
Association of America

1 Madison Avenue, New York City

Please mention THE PLAYGROUND when writing to advertisers



PLANNING A PLAYGROUND

The problems with which you are confronted in planning your new playgrounds have probably been worked out over and over again by us, and our Engineering Department is equipped to solve any problem which may present entirely new features of construction.

Our service in planning your equipment incurs no expense or obligation. It reflects our 43 years' practical experience. We know playground needs thoroughly. We have literally grown up with the playground movement.

WRITE FOR CATALOG "W". It is a recognized guide on Playground Equipment. It covers every form of apparatus that has been approved in actual practice.

FRED MEDART MFG. CO., St. Louis, Mo.
Gymnasium Outfitters **Steel Lockers**



DON'T GRIND YOUR SEED CORN!

During the waning days of the Southern Confederacy, when it seemed as if the very children would be drawn into the maelstrom, President Jeff Davis admonished his people saying: "The Children of a Nation are Its Seed Corn. Don't Grind Your Seed Corn." During the present world war there must, and will be, many sacrifices made, but our children must be fully cared for in their school and recreation life.

Keep the Playgrounds Going. We can help you with our "Fun-Ful" line of Playground Equipment and Athletic Goods. Write for information concerning our Combination Playground and Fire Escape Slide.

Write for Free Catalogue Today

HILL-STANDARD COMPANY,
 1216 Fun-Ful Avenue,
 ANDERSON, INDIANA

Please mention THE PLAYGROUND when writing to advertisers

PLAYGROUND AND RECREATION OF AMERICA

THEODORE ROOSEVELT
Honorary President
WILLIAM KENT
Second Vice-President

JOSEPH LEE
President
ROBERT GARRETT
Third Vice-President

GUSTAVUS T. KIRBY
Treasurer
H. S. BRAUCHER
Secretary

WALTER B. DICKINSON
Associate Secretary
CHARLES F. WELLES
Associate Secretary
E. DANA CAULKINS
Field Secretary
VICTOR R. MANNING
Field Secretary
CHARLES E. REED
Field Secretary
JAMES EDWARD ROGERS
Field Secretary
T. S. SETTLE
Field Secretary

C. F. STIMSON
Field Secretary
L. H. WEIR
Field Secretary
HENRY BARNBROCK
Assistant
ANDIE CONDIT
Assistant
RALPH E. HEDGES
Assistant
HELEN TUCKER LORD
Assistant

GEORGE A. NESBITT
Assistant
ALICE MARION OLESON
Assistant
DONALD G. PRICE
Assistant
JACOB R. PROEBSTEL
Assistant
OPAL V. RALSTON
Assistant
RUTH SHERBURNE
Assistant
F. W. TAYLOR
Assistant

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MRS. EDWARD W. BIDDLE
Carlisle, Pa.
RICHARD C. CABOT
Boston, Mass.
CLARENCE M. CLARK
Philadelphia, Pa.
GREENVILLE CLARK
New York City
B. PRESTON CLARK
Boston, Mass.
EVERETT COLBY
Newark, N. J.
MRS. E. P. EARLE
Montclair, N. J.
MRS. THOMAS A. EDISON
West Orange, N. J.
JOHN H. FINLEY
Albany, N. Y.
CHARLES W. GARFIELD
Grand Rapids, Mich.
ROBERT GARRETT
Baltimore, Md.
C. M. GOETHE
Sacramento, Cal.
MRS. CHARLES A. GOODWIN
Hartford, Conn.
AUSTIN E. GRIFFITHS
Seattle, Wash.
J. M. HANKINS
Birmingham, Ala.

MRS. APPLETON R. HILL-
YER
Hartford, Conn.
MRS. FRANCIS DeLACY
HYDE
Plainfield, N. J.
MRS. HOWARD IVES
Portland, Maine
WILLIAM KENT
Washington, D. C.
GUSTAVUS T. KIRBY
New York City
WALTER B. LASHAR
Bridgeport, Conn.
G. M. LANDERS
New Britain, Conn.
H. McK. LANDON
Indianapolis, Ind.
JOSEPH LEE
Boston, Mass.
EUGENE W. LEWIS
Detroit, Mich.
EDWARD E. LOOMIS
New York City
J. H. McCURDY
Springfield, Mass.
OTTO T. MALLERY
Philadelphia, Pa.
SAMUEL MATHER
Cleveland, Ohio
R. B. MAURY
Memphis, Tenn.

WALTER A. MAY
Pittsburgh, Pa.
CARL E. MILLIKEN
Augusta, Maine
F. GORDON OSLER
Toronto, Canada
JAMES H. PERKINS
New York City
JOHN T. PRATT
New York City
ELLEN SCRIPPS
La Jolla, Cal.
CLEMENT STUDEBAKER, JR.
South Bend, Ind.
F. S. TITSWORTH
Denver, Colo.
HAROLD H. SWIFT
Chicago, Ill.
THEODORE N. VAIL
New York City
MRS. JAMES W. WADSWORTH, JR.
Washington, D. C.
J. C. WALSH
New York City
R. D. WAUGH
Winnipeg, Canada
HARRIS WHITTEMORE
Naugatuck, Conn.



¶ "Do not let the needs of the hour, however heavily they may fall upon the men and women of the day, permit neglect of the defenses of tomorrow," was the advice given by school officials of France.

¶ "France has restricted the use of fuel; she has restricted travel, except for reasons of necessity. She has mobilized every able bodied man for present defense; but she has not for one moment forgotten her future defense. She has even opened schools in caves and provided teachers and pupils with gas masks; she has put women by thousands in place of men called to the front from teaching; she has received back into service with honor many who have been incapacitated."

